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Reply to Office Action dated 9 June 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the final Official Action dated 9 June 2005. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claims 6 and 13 have been amended to clarify the combination of elements which forms the invention of the subject Patent Application. Claims 1-5, 11 and 18-20 are cancelled.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 6, 8, 11-13, 15 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Chien, et at., U.S. Patent 5,621,467, in view of Luthi, U.S. Patent 5,875,199.

Before discussing the prior art relied upon by the Examiner, it is believed beneficial to first briefly review the method of the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed. The invention of the subject Patent Application is directed to a method of decoding a video bit stream that includes forward error correction (FEC) codes. The method includes the step of receiving the video bit stream, which includes video data, FEC codes corresponding to a subset of the video data and a header code that specifies the subset of video data to which one or more of the FEC codes correspond, the subset of video data being one of motion vectors, DC coefficients, and header information. The method includes the step of receiving video data from the video bit stream and evaluating the video data to determine the presence of a corrupt portion thereof and determining if the corrupt portion of video data corresponds to the subset of video data

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corresponding to the FEC codes. It includes the step of retrieving at least one of

the FEC codes from the video bit stream as specified by the header code

responsive to the determination of a correspondence of the corrupt portion of the

video data with the FEC coded portion in the video data evaluating step. The

method includes the step of correcting the corrupt portion of the video data in

accordance with the at least one of the FEC codes to recover uncorrupted video

data therefrom.

In contradistinction, the Chien, et al. reference discloses a temporal-spatial

error concealment apparatus and method for video signal processors. The

receiver, shown in Fig. 2, includes a tuner/demodulator 10 which provides a bass

band video signal to the FEC decoder 12 which examines the transmitted signal

and corrects errors incurred in the transmission channel. Error corrected data from

the FEC decoder 12 is applied to a rate buffer 14 and then to a frame check

sequence decoder 16 which examines the error corrected data for uncorrected

errors according to FCS check bits, and provides transport packets D to the

element 18 along with an error signal ED, which indicates whether the respective

packet contained data errors. Nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest FEC

codes corresponding to a subset of video data and a header code that specifies the

subset of video data to which one or more of the FEC codes correspond, as well as

the subset of video data being one of motion vectors, DC coefficients, and header

information. There is nothing in Chien, et al. that suggests that the FEC codes

correspond to only a subset of the video data, and in particular neither discloses nor suggests that the subset video data are any one of motion vectors, DC coefficients, and header information, as provided in the method of the invention of the subject Patent Application.
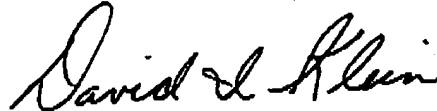
The Luthi reference does not overcome the deficiencies of Chien, et al. The Luthi reference is directed to a video device with Reed-Solomon erasure decoder and method thereof. The reference utilizes a block coding algorithm using Reed-Solomon codes to provide error correction, rather than utilizing a forward error correction coding scheme for only portions of the video data, portions which are considered important to be reconstructed, rather than interpolated. Nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest of receiving the video bit stream, which includes video data, FEC codes corresponding to a subset of the video data and a header code that specifies the subset of video data to which one or more of the FEC codes correspond, the subset of video data being one of motion vectors, DC coefficients, and header information, as now claimed.

As neither Chien, et al. nor Luthi disclose or suggest the combination of elements which define the invention of the subject Patent Application, as now claimed, they cannot make obvious that invention. Further, while the Claims dependent on Claims 6 and 13 are believed to be patentably distinct, they are at least patentably distinct for the same reasons as the independent Claims.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent

Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is

respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
For: ROSENBERG, KLEIN & LEE

David I. Klein
Registration #33,253

Dated: 9 Sept 2005

Suite 101
3458 Ellicott Center Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 465-6678
Customer No. 04586

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9 Sept 2005
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David I. Klein

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